

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 6-11, 13, 17, 21, 25-33, and 41-47 were pending in the present application. Claims 1, 17, 21, 25, 27, 33, and 47 have been amended. Claims 2-16, 18-20, 22-24, 26, 28-32, and 34-45 are canceled. New claims 48-66 have been added. No new matter has been added. Therefore, claims 1, 17, 21, 25, 27, 33, and 46-66 are now pending in the present application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Examiner Rodriguez is sincerely thanked for indicating that claims 21, 46, and 47 are allowed, and that claims 6-9, 11, 17, 27, 30, 31, 33, 42, 43, and 45 contain allowable subject matter.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 4, 10, 13, 25, 26, 28, 29, 32, 41, and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,505,691 to Judge et al. (hereinafter “Judge”). The rejections are moot in view of the above amendments and the following comments.

In the Office Action, Examiner Rodriguez indicated that several features of claim 1 do not add any patentable weight, such as “wherein, for each storage tank, its associated valves are configured to be opened and closed in a cycle to sequentially fill and drain their associated storage tank of said fluid, said cycle having a cycle time, wherein said cycles of said associated valves of said storage tanks are out of phase with each other such that at some time in which one storage tank is being filled with said fluid, at least one other storage tank is being drained of said fluid, and wherein said cycle time for each storage tank is between 1 and 500 milliseconds.” Therefore, these features have been canceled from claim 1.

Further, Examiner Rodriguez indicated that claims 6-9, 11, 42, and 43, which all depend from claim 1, contain allowable subject matter. Therefore, these features have

been incorporated into claim 1 in the alternative as features a) – g), respectively. In other words, claim 1 may read on a device that satisfies at least one of a) – g), but not necessarily more than one of a) – g). Because each of features a) – g) corresponds to a dependent claim indicated as allowable over Judge, amended independent claim 1, and all claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable over Judge.

Next, Examiner Rodriguez indicated that several features of claim 21 do not add any patentable weight, such as “wherein said valves are configured to be opened and closed in a cycle to sequentially fill and drain said storage tank of said fluid, said cycle having a cycle time, wherein said cycle time is between 1 and 500 milliseconds.” Therefore, these features have been canceled from claim 21. Amended claim 21, and all claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable over Judge.

Next, Examiner Rodriguez indicated that several features of claim 25 do not add any patentable weight, such as “wherein the at least two pressurant entrance valves, the at least two pressurant exit valves, the at least two propellant entrance valves, and the at least two propellant exit valves are configured to be opened and closed in said cycle to sequentially fill and drain said pressurizer of said fluid, said cycle having a cycle time, wherein said cycle time is between 1 and 250 milliseconds.” Therefore, these features have been canceled from claim 25.

Further, Examiner Rodriguez indicated that claims 30 and 31, which each depends from claim 25, contain allowable subject matter. Therefore, these features have been incorporated into claim 25 in the alternative as features a) and b), respectively. In other words, claim 25 may read on a device that satisfies at least one of a) and b), but not necessarily more than one of a) and b). Because each of features a) and b) corresponds to a claim indicated as allowable over Judge, amended independent claim 25, and all claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable over Judge.

Finally, new independent claim 65 recites an impulse reaction engine. Judge does not disclose, teach, or suggest an impulse reaction engine. Therefore, new claim 65, and dependent claim 66, are believed to be allowable over Judge.

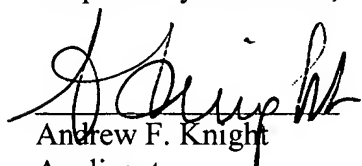


Fees and Conclusion

Applicant believes that he has paid for 27 claims, including four independent claims. Because the present application now includes 27 pending claims, including four independent claims, Applicant believes that no fee is due herewith. Applicant respectfully requests notification if additional fees are due.

Applicant respectfully requests entrance of the present amendments and a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will further prosecution of the present case, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew F. Knight

Applicant

2770 Airline Goldmine Rd.

Canon, GA 30520

703-795-7375

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Date